

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/814,125

Examiner

Audrey Y. Chang

Applicant(s)

IKETAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on July 6, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 74, 77-97, (renumber as 1-22).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Audrey Y. Chang
Primary Examiner
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE***Remark***

- This Office Action is in response to applicant's correspondence filed on July 6, 2004, which has been entered into file.
- The applicant has filed no amendment to the claims.
- Claims 74 and 77-97 remain pending in this application.

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The *terminal disclaimer* filed on July 6, 2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of US patent 6,667,830 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: of the prior art references considered none has disclosed a *double-resonance absorption microscope* that includes an *overlap component* (or *overlap means*) for partially overlapping irradiating areas of the pump light and the erase light so that the emission area is *partially inhibited* during the de-excitation of the sample molecule from the first electronic excited state to the ground state by irradiation the pump light and the erase light through the overlap component (or means), a spatial filter (or *spatial filtering means*) located on the optical path of the erase light for condensing and collimating the erase light to parallel beam and a *phase modulation element* (or *phase modulation means*) for providing the erase light passing through the spatial filter with a *phase difference of π* around an optical axis of the erase light so as to produce a *first-order Bessel beam*.

The prior art reference US patent issued to Kashima et al (PN. 6,184,535) teaches a double-resonance absorption microscope with spatial filter and aperture in the beam path but it

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does not teach to use a phase modulation element to provide the erase light passing through the spatial filter with a phase difference of π around an optical axis of the erase light to produce a first order Bessel beam.

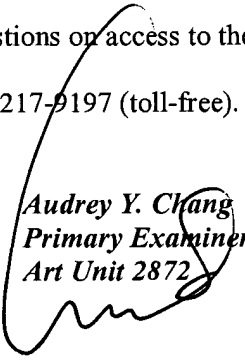
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Audrey Y. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-2309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30), alternative Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Audrey Y. Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872



A. Chang, Ph.D.